



Guidelines for Residential and Multi-Family Rain Barrel Rebate

Effective October 2, 2017

Receive up to \$1.00 for every gallon of rain barrel storage capacity (up to 400 gallons and \$400 per property)

What is the value of a rain barrel?

Rain Barrels are used to collect rainwater from hard surfaces such as rooftops. When you install a rain barrel at your home, you are helping to conserve water by reducing the demand on the potable water system to irrigate your garden. You are also reducing the amount of wet weather runoff that is collected and sent into the public storm water system, which otherwise goes untreated into our bays and estuaries. The amount of water that can be collected from a rooftop depends on several variables, including the dimensions of the rooftop, the collection capacity, and the amount and the timing of the rain received. Before applying, calculate how much rain barrel storage capacity you need. Remember, San Diego typically receives around 10 inches of rain annually. The rainwater catchment rule of thumb is:



1,000 square feet of roof surface captures 625 gallons of water for every 1 inch of rain that falls.

Rebate Process

1. **Take pre-installation photo:** Before installing rain barrel(s), take 1 clear photograph of each existing rain gutter downspout that will be fitted with a rain barrel. Photo must include area where rain barrel will eventually stand.
2. **Install the rain barrel:** Purchase and install rain barrel(s) that meets the specifications set forth in the “Program Requirements & Parameters” section of these guidelines. Rain barrels purchased before **January 1, 2016 do not qualify for a rebate.**
3. **Take post-installation photo:** After installing rain barrel(s), take at least 2 clear photographs of each new barrel, showing downspout connections, secured lid, and overflow valve (include photos taken from at least 2 directions).
4. **Complete the [Rain Barrel Rebate Application](#) and gather supporting documentation.**
Supporting documentation includes:
 - ✓ [W-9](#) form required for rebates. Form must be completed and submitted with application.
 - ✓ Paid invoices or sales receipts (must show price of each rain barrel, store name, purchase date, and payment method)
 - ✓ All “before” and “after” installation photos (see Steps 1 and 3)

5. **Submit the application and supporting documentation:** You may do so via US Mail or email.

- ✓ If submitting by US Mail, send application and supporting documentation to:
City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
Attn: Rain Barrel Rebate
Program 525 B Street,
Suite 300,
San Diego, CA 92101
- ✓ If submitting by email, send application and supporting documentation to:
waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov. Please ensure the subject line reads:
Rain Barrel Rebate

Program Parameters and Requirements (Effective August 22, 2017)

- Rebate for new rain barrels is \$1.00 for every gallon of rain barrel storage capacity, up to 400 gallons. Example: A 55 gallon rain barrel rebate = \$55 (\$1x55 gallons). Multiple barrels may be rebated but total rebate is capped at \$400 per property. If your HOA pays your water bill please have a board member sign your application as well. For HOA properties inquiring about purchasing for multiple units please see below under 'Other Important Information.'
- **Cisterns do not qualify for a rebate.**
- Only the cost of the rain barrel(s) is eligible for a rebate. Actual rebate amount will be calculated using supporting documents provided, cost of the rain barrel, and available funding. Rebate will be the lower of the two: total eligible costs for the barrel or the stated maximum total dollar amount per customer rebate.
- City of San Diego Public Utilities Department residential customers served by an individual water meter may participate in the rebate program.
- Manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions must be followed.
- Rain barrel must have at least a 45 gallon capacity.
- Rebate applies only to above ground rain capture devices that do not require pumps and backflow devices (no homemade barrels).
- Rain barrel must be designed for the intended purpose of rain capture and must be connected to a gutter downspout.
- Rain barrel must not be connected to the (potable water) irrigation system and must be distributed through a hose or bucket only.
- Rain barrel must be placed on a solid and level foundation, such as concrete pad, pavers, or brick for better stability.
- Rain barrel must not block or restrict narrow walkway or path around the home, which may become a safety/emergency access issue.
- Rain barrel must be algae and UV-resistant or specially constructed sun barriers must be used.
- Copper materials (including downspouts) are not allowed due to potential leaching concerns.
- Overflow pipe from barrel must be directed away from buildings and/or adjacent properties and may flow to landscape (preferred).
- Rain barrel must have a secure lid for child safety, vector control (mosquito, rodent), and debris control.
- Rain barrel must be maintained for a minimum of 3 years upon receipt of rebate.

- Participants must allow the City to reference the project in outreach materials and must respond to minimal requests for information about the project for purposes of program reporting.
- Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. A post-site inspection may be required.
- Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record approximately 10 weeks after application is deemed complete.

Installation Recommendations

- Refer to the [Rainwater Harvesting Guide and Specifications Handbook](#) for installation guidance.
- Place the rain barrel on a raised foundation to accommodate a watering can and increase gravity flow.
- Consider placement of the outlet pipe/faucet at a maximum of 6 inches from the bottom of rain barrel.
- Consider strapping rain barrel similar to earthquake straps for hot water heaters, or per manufacturer recommendations.
- Consider limiting the height: width ratio of the rain barrel to 2:1 to prevent instability.

What does not qualify for a rebate?

- Cisterns
- Barrels purchased prior to January 1, 2016.
- Labor, fuel, or tools costs.
- Costs associated with fixtures or components used to install or secure rain barrel.
- Homemade rain barrels constructed without a City approved kit.
- Taxes, fees, or tariffs associated with the purchase of rebate-related device or work performed.

Other Important Information

If you are an HOA seeking to purchase barrels for your community, the \$400 maximum per detached single family home or one per multi-family building applies, but we do require one application per community to be filled out. In addition to the photograph, receipt, and application requirements, please submit with your application a list of the account numbers with addresses associated with each account number that you are requesting a rebate for. All other parameters and requirements above still apply to each address.

Please consult with a tax advisor if you have questions regarding any potential tax implications of your rebate.

If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-4126 or e-mail waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov. Include your project reference number if you have one.

Funding for a limited number of rebates is available through the City of San Diego Public Utilities and Transportation and Storm Water Departments, and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification.

Please visit SoCalWaterSmart.com to determine if you are eligible for an additional rain barrel rebate.